R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L O F W I L L I T O N

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1969

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WILLITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1969

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report upon the general sanitation and social conditions of your district and the general health of the population for the year 1969 The work of the public health department is dealt with under the following sections:-

Section A.	Vital Statistics & Social Conditions
Section B.	Water Supplies, Sewage & Refuse Disposal
Section C.	Housing
Section D.	Food Inspection & Supplies
Section E.	Public Health Nuisances, Complaints, Etc.
Section F.	Caravans & Camping
Section G.	Other Acts administered by the Department
Section H.	Summary of Inspections and Visits

Section A
Vital Statistics & Social Conditions

Infectious disease during the year has been confined to a mild outbreak of measles and other minor ailments. Financial stringency has again caused a slowing up of housing development and improvement, and has also been the main factor in retarding progress in other fields, notably in much needed road improvement.

Area	97,364 acres
Estimated Mid-year Home Population	14,100
Number of Dwelling Houses	6,130
Rateable Value	£612,279
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate	£2,445

Live Births	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	100	73	173
Illegitimate	5	11	16
	105	84	189

Crude rate per thousand population	-	13.4
Adjusted rate per thousand population	-	17.3
Percentage of Illegitimate Births of total recorded births	-	8
Infant Mortality Rate per thousand live births	-	25

Still Births	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	-	3	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths	M.	F.	Total
From all causes	111	117	228

Crude Death Rate per thousand population ..	.. 16.2
Adjusted Death Rate per thousand population	.. 11.3

Health Services

The district is served by Hospitals at Minehead and Musgrove Park, Taunton, and Hospitals for the aged sick at Williton, Bridgwater and Taunton. Ambulance services are available from both Minehead and Musgrove Park. Part three accommodation for 40 persons at Croft House, Williton, is fully occupied.

Notifiable Diseases	Notified
Measles	73
Dysentery	7
Scarlet Fever	2
Diptheria	NIL
Acute meningitis	"
Acute poliomyelitis Paralytic	"
Acute poliomyelitis Non-paralytic	"
Acute Encephalitis	"
Leptospirosis	"
Paratyphoid Fever	"
Typhoid Fever	"
Food Poisoning	"
Tetanus	"
Infective Jaundice	4
Tuberculosis	NIL

Section B.
Water Supplies

The quality of the treated village supplies has shown very little variation over the last few years, and again in 1969 can be considered generally as satisfactory. All public supplies proved adequate throughout the year.

The majority of the 22 unsatisfactory samples indicated minor pollution only and remedial action was taken by the West Somerset Water Board, upon notification.

Results of analysis of samples from piped supplies are as follows:-

Raw Water

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological	165	78
Chemical	14	NIL

Treated Water

Bacteriological	166	22
Chemical	7	NIL

Sewage Disposal

Nineteen parishes now have main drainage with efficient disposal systems, and two other parishes are partly sewered. Schemes for the provision of adequate facilities and the improvement of existing installations in several villages are in hand.

Refuse Disposal

Disposal is on four semi-controlled tips and all parishes are receiving regular collections. Williton, Porlock, Dunster and Stogursey are collected weekly, with fortnightly collections in other parishes.

Acute shortage of tipping space is a major problem, but it is hoped to eventually solve this by securing one central tip which it is hoped will provide tipping space for several years, and also help to solve the growing problem of disposal of obsolete motor cars.

Section C.
Housing

There are 6130 permanent dwellings in the district of which 970 are owned by your Council. This number includes 167 Old People's dwellings and there are a further 37 of these in course of erection.

Private enterprise houses erected during the year totalled 28 and there are a further 33 in various stages of completion.

Housing Grants

Discretionary

The total amount paid out in grants during the year was £8,313. This consisted of 27 dwellings at an average cost per dwelling of £307.

Standard

These totalled payments of £903 and comprised 7 dwellings at an average cost of £129 per dwelling.

Rent Act

There have been no applications for Certificates of Disrepair under this Act.

Section D
Food Supplies & Inspection
Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	2020	19	60	8259	3914	-
Number inspected	2020	19	60	8259	3914	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	2	NIL	5	10	4	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	370	-	7	815	501	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	18.01	-	20	9.8	12.9	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	"	"	"	"	14	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	"	"	"	"	0.35	-

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Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	-
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-						
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	248	-
(b) Cysticercosis	29	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	7189	NIL	331	1630	442	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	7218	11	331	1630	690	-

Slaughtering and Slaughterhouses

Five licenced slaughterhouses are operating and 100% meat inspection has been maintained. There are 18 registered slaughtermen.

Five informal notices, concerning infringements of the regulations, were served during the year.

Food Premises, etc.

Food hygiene standards throughout the district have been reasonably well maintaine and informal action was necessary in only 17 cases.

Section E.

Complainta of various kinds received and dealt with by the department were 103. There were none of an unusual nature.

Section F
Caravans and Camping

There are 18 sites licenced under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, and 4 under the Public Health Act, sec. 269.

Inadequate facilities for the seasonal caravanner and camper is a growing problem and the need for the provision of more accommodation of an approved standard is becoming urgent if the ordinary standards of hygiene are to be preserved. This applies more particularly to the Western end of the district.

Section G
Factories Act 1937

There are 51 premises registered under the Factories Act, including five licenced slaughterhouses. The majority are of the light engineering type, where machinery of some kind is in use, whilst some are of a temporary nature such as building sites, etc.

Outworkers resident in the district number 55, of which 8 are employed by industries operating outside your district.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963

Premises registered under this Act number 80, classified as follows:-
Offices - 16: Retail Shops - 53: Catering Establishments - 22: Fuel Storage Depots - 1: During the year 39 inspections have been carried out and 9 notices served. There were 13 new registrations.

Diseases of animals (Waste Foods) Order,1951

There are three premises licenced under the above Order. Installations are all of the solid fuel type and are maintained in a satisfactory manner. Regular inspection by the Council's Officers is carried out.

Pet Animals Act
Rag Flock Act

There are no pet shops within the district or premises dealing in rag flock.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act

Four premises are registered under this Act for the boarding of coats only and all four establishments are satisfactorily run.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

Pest control has proceeded normally during the year. Complaints received of infestations have shown an increase over the previous year. There has been no sign of Warfarin resistance.

There are now 13 contracts in operation with a total income of 387.

Twenty-four wasps and four hornets nests were also treated.

The arrangement with Watchet U.D.C. continues.

Section H
Summary of Public Health Inspector's Visits and Notices Served

Year 1969 (Summary)

Public Health Acts	Inspections	Notices
Drainage & Sewerage	200	37
Public Conveniences	5	-
Disinfection of Premises	6	-
Infectious Diseases	22	-
Nuisances	60	3
Tented Camping Sites	8	-
Watercourses, etc.	8	-
Refuse Collection & Disposal	309	-
Housing Acts		
Defective Conditions	68	16
Individual Unfit	12	2
Standard Grant	41	-
Discretionary Grant	220	-
Food & Drugs Act		
Food Premises	51	14
Mobile Stalls, etc.	2	2
Foreign Bodies and Other Complaints	2	-
Factories Acts		
Mechanical	3	-
Outworkers	1	-
Slaughterhouses Acts		
Slaughterhouses	30	-
Meat Inspection Visits	617	-

Litter Act	Inspections	Notices
Civic Amenities Act	13	3
'Abandoned Vehicles)	8	2
O.S.R. Act		
Offices	11	-
Retail Shops	20	5
Catering Establishments & Canteens	15	1
Caravan Sites, etc. Act		
Residential	87	-
Holiday	41	-
Animal Boarding Estab. Act	8	-
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order	3	-

Once again I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued good work.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C.F.R. Killick M.B. Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health